

# O Timothy

*“Keep that which is committed to thy trust...”*

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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*“The churches desperately need courageous, faithful preachers, not pragmatic politicians. If a preacher is not willing to narrow his associations in these days and to walk a more lonely path with Christ in solid truth, he will definitely compromise and the effect of that compromise will be evident in his church in this present generation and even more in the next.” Page 3.*

**Digging in the Walls:** A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 11.**

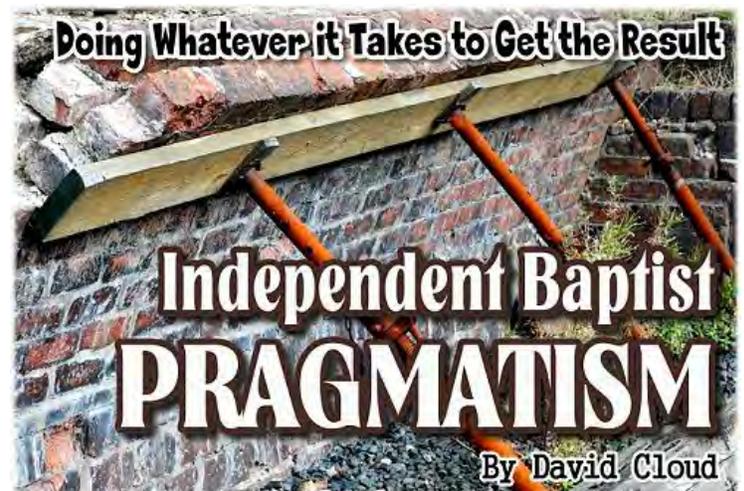


## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST PRAGMATISM - By David Cloud

**P**ragmatism is a philosophy and methodology that focuses on the practicality of a decision.

Consider some dictionary definitions of “pragmatism”:

- “a reasonable and logical way of doing things or of thinking about problems that is based on dealing with specific situations instead of on ideas and theories” (*Merriam-Webster*).
- “a person or a solution that takes a realistic approach” (*Vocabulary.com*).
- “a practical, matter-of-fact way of approaching or assessing situations or of solving problems” (*The Free Dictionary*).
- “a philosophical movement or system having various forms, but generally stressing practical consequences



as constituting the essential criterion in determining meaning, truth, or value” (*Dictionary.com*).

- “the quality of dealing with a problem in a sensible way that suits the conditions that really exist, rather

than following fixed theories, ideas, or rules” (*Cambridge Dictionary*).

A preacher friend commented about church pragmatism along this line: “It is to do something on a practical level without diligently considering the theological implication. It is when the practice *overtakes* the theological principle. It is to do whatever it takes to get a good result even if it violates biblical principles or undermines divine power.”

The pragmatic preacher makes decisions about the church and ministry based on what “works” to produce a desired goal as opposed to making decisions based *strictly* on Bible truth, though he will give lip service to the latter.

The pragmatic preacher will not be faithful to the whole counsel of God because he has other objectives that are more prominent and pressing.

The goal might be getting big numbers and building a big church. One day years ago I was driving through a city with a pastor friend, and as we drove by a large church facility he expressed a strong desire to have that type of thing. I was shocked and puzzled, because

personally I have never thought in those terms, and I didn’t realize that he harbored such aspirations.

Having a big church should *not* be a pastor’s objective. Having a church that is pleasing to the Lord and faithful to God’s Word in *ALL* aspects should be the *SOLE* objective, and in this day and age it is exceedingly rare that the two objectives will harmonize.

The goal of the pragmatic preacher might be not to offend prominent people in his church or even not to offend the women in his church.

The goal might be not to offend some prominent preacher or his own circle of preacher friends. A brother wrote to me recently about a pastor he had talked to regarding the danger of being a soft separatist and not drawing the lines against West Coast (in particular) and its influence. This pastor told him that “he didn’t agree with the music at West Coast and wouldn’t attend their pastors conference as a result, but saw some good fruit come from the school.” When he has Bible conferences, this pastor invites men who are strong supporters of West Coast. The man who had talked to the pastor made this observation: “I can see that the implications to this pastor, of taking a Biblical stand, are great. To take a stand against West Coast/Lancaster would send waves through the network of Pastors/Churches in our area and bring isolation.”

The goal of the pragmatic preacher might be to keep his preaching engagements open. For example, a Bible conference speaker or evangelist who is a pragmatist will weigh his preaching and the stance he takes by whether or not it would close doors. He learns how to preach in generalities so as to “keep his options open.”

Recently an evangelist published his stand on separation, but though he made some good biblical points, the position was so vague and shallow (being based on only one Scripture passage as opposed to the whole counsel of God and not being practically applied in a clear manner) that it was almost useless. It appears that his objective was to be thought of as a

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separatist while not really separating in a practical sense.

The goal of the pragmatist might be to get students for a school or to get subscriptions for a paper.

The pragmatic will give lip service to separatism and to being faithful to the whole counsel of God, and he will talk strongly for it in private.

A few years ago I met the editor of a prominent Independent Baptist publication for a lunch that was arranged by a pastor friend. As soon as we met at the restaurant, this editor asked me to keep the discussion “off the record.” He then proceeded to agree with me about many issues, including my concerns about Quick Prayerism. I was greatly puzzled, because he had not published anything plainly stated on these issues, to my knowledge, and had certainly never warned about the men who are the chief proponents of such things, most of whom were and are his buddies.

Then I realized that this man is a pragmatist, and the pragmatist isn’t at liberty to speak out on all matters, because he has a publication and a ministry to think about.

A pragmatist is a religious politician, and I believe this is a stench in God’s nostrils.

The apostle Paul was not a pragmatist. He had only one objective, and that was to be faithful to Christ his Master. He called himself a “doulos” or bondservant. He had been purchased by Christ from the slave market of sin and did not own himself. His objective was to be faithful to God’s truth. Period. He had no other objective. He would not have dreamed of having another objective. The non-pragmatist Paul testified,

“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).

He didn’t weigh his message by practical considerations, as to whether it would offend someone he wanted to impress or close doors of ministry or reduce the size of his crowd.

Paul even solemnly commissioned Timothy to keep the New Testament commands “without spot,” which refers to the “small” things (1 Timothy 6:13-14).

Every preacher is commanded to preach the Word, all of the Word, in season and out of season, no matter what happens, no matter how popular or unpopular it is, no matter who is offended or what doors it closes.

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2).

Faithfulness to this divine command is the opposite of religious pragmatism, and may the Lord give every Bible-believing preacher the spiritual conviction and backbone and passionate love for Christ that will drive away every pragmatic concern.

The churches desperately need courageous, faithful preachers, not pragmatic politicians.

If a preacher is not willing to narrow his associations in these days and to walk a more lonely path with Christ in solid truth, he will definitely compromise and the effect of that compromise will be evident in his church in this present generation and even more in the next.

May each preacher pray, “Lord God, help me not be a pragmatist or a politician. Help me be faithful to you and to your holy Word. While multitudes have been willing to rot in prison cells, to be torn asunder, and to be burned, woe unto me if I am not willing to bear whatever offense or cost comes for being faithful to the truth in an evil age and a compromising hour.”

“My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation” (James 3:1).



# Bible Study and CONCENTRATION

By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [The Effectual Bible Student](#), a 12-hour series of video presentations plus an accompanying textbook containing a detailed outline to the course. It is our goal and passion to help God's people, including teenagers, become effectual Bible students. The course, which is the product of more than 40 years of Bible study and teaching, has life-changing potential. It has four major sections: (1) The spiritual requirements for effectual Bible study, (2) tips for daily Bible study, (3) principles of Bible interpretation, and (4) how to use Bible study tools. It also deals with using Bible study software on a computer, a tablet, or a smartphone. It is a package consisting of the videos of the course and the textbook with review questions for testing. The course notes can be used as a standalone tool by teachers to teach church classes and home schooling programs or can be used for self-study.

The package can be purchased as a set of DVDs and textbook, or it can be downloaded for free from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).

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## Effective Bible study requires CONCENTRATION.

“O how love I thy law! it *is* my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119:97).

“I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation” (Psalm 119:99).

If you can't concentrate upon the Bible, your study time will not be very profitable. It is so easy for the mind to wander as you read the Bible, and we must do whatever is necessary to keep our thoughts on the Scriptures, to hold the words of God in our hearts so that they bring forth good fruit. Not only do we live in a weak, fleshly body (called the “*body of this death*” in Romans 7:24)

that gets tired and sick, and not only do we dwell in a world full of cares and troubles, but we have an aggressive spiritual enemy that seeks to hinder our progress. His name is Satan, meaning *the adversary*, the one who stands before us to resist us. Bible study is spiritual warfare, and we must do everything necessary to win this war.

The Parable of the Sower teaches us that a man must make the effort to understand and apply the Scriptures, or the truth will be stolen away from his heart by the evil (Matthew 13:19). We must capture the truth by meditating on it and finding out its meaning.

This is why MEMORIZATION of Scripture is so important. When Scriptures are memorized, the believer can then meditate upon them at any time. It is good to write Scripture verses down on cards and keep them with you so that you can spend time memorizing Scripture as you have opportunity, such as when you are waiting on someone or something. Redeem the time!

Following are some suggestions to help you concentrate upon the Word of God:

- A. **A quiet, private place is required.** I have seen Christians trying to study the Bible in a room where other people are talking, children are active, music is playing, etc. That is not wise and it is not honoring to the Lord who deserves and requires our undivided attention. The Bible is the very Word of God. Would it be proper to invite God over for a visit and then have many other things going on at the same time as He was talking to us? On some occasions when I have visited people in their homes to talk to them about spiritual matters, they have kept the television on. That was very disrespectful to the message that I was bringing from God's Word. You need to do whatever is necessary and possible to find a private, quiet place. There

have been occasions when I have gotten into my car and driven out to a country road or, if in a city, to the backside of the parking lot of a large shopping area in order to have a private place for Bible study.

Also in this age of technology and social media, it is important to turn off the phone, email, texts, chats, or anything else that would reduce or interrupt your concentration on God's Word.

If you are a mother of small children, you can try to have your quiet time with the Lord before the children awake or when they are napping.

Even more importantly, you can teach them to sit quietly and play or look at books while you spend time with the Lord. This is a very important part of discipling their lives and teaching them to honor God and parents.

- B. Ask the Lord to help you to keep your mind on His Word.** If you find your mind frequently wandering during Bible study, lay the matter before the Lord. Tell Him that you desire to grow in knowledge of Him and His Word, explain your problem to Him, and beseech Him to help you concentrate.
- C. If you are particularly worried about some matter, cast it upon the Lord** (1 Pet. 5:7) and trust Him to take care of it for you; then turn your full attention to His Word.
- D. Have pen in hand as you read.** Just the action of picking up one's pen and being ready to write things down or to mark in one's Bible causes the mind to focus more on the reading.
- E. Remove things from your Bible study area that are distracting.** I know a pastor who removed all of the bright colored covers from the books in his office, because they distracted him when he was trying to study the Bible.
- F. Be careful about using a computer during Bible reading time.** I use my computer to study the Bible, because it is so efficient, but I do not use my computer when I have my daily devotional time in the Scriptures. It is too easy to get distracted with other things on the computer.
- G. Be careful about extraneous thoughts.** When you are studying the Bible, it will often happen that thoughts about other things will rush in and you will be tempted to leave the study of the Bible and to rush off to take care of those things. For this reason, it is a good idea to have pen and paper handy and to jot down such thoughts so that you can take care of them later. This way, you can put them out of your mind for the time being and proceed with your study. If you get in the habit of allowing yourself to rush off and take care of other things, you will be crippled in your ability to study the Bible fruitfully.
- H. Go back and read the passage again.** When you find that your mind has wandered during the reading of the Scripture, it is important to go back and read that passage again until you understand what you are reading, even if it takes several readings. It is better to read one verse with clear understanding than to read an entire chapter with the mind drifting to other things.
- I. Try not to read the Bible when you are tired.** Sometimes this cannot be avoided, and it is better to read the Bible when you are tired than not at all. But the wise Bible student will arrange his schedule in such a way that he can study the Scriptures when his mind is fresh.
- J. If you find your mind wandering, it might help to put the Bible reading first before you do anything else in the day.** I have found that if I start reading and studying other things first, it is much more difficult to concentrate on the Bible later.
- K. Sometimes it is helpful to read the Bible aloud if you find your mind wandering.** This can help you maintain your concentration.
- L. A larger print Bible** can also help with concentration because it is easier to read and the pages of the Bible are not as cluttered.
- M. Be persistent.** Don't let the devil defeat you in your Bible reading. If you find yourself unable to concentrate for a period, don't quit. There are ups and downs in Bible study as there are in everything else in life. The best tip for effective Bible study is to keep on keeping on!



Christlikeness is compassion and gentleness and patience, but it is also firmness, even toughness, in regard to God's holy laws. The Lord said, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" (Revelation 3:19).

Consider how forceful Christ can be in reproof to His own people (not to speak of His millennial rod of iron and the issue of eternal judgment for the unbeliever):

"But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, **GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN**: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men" (Mark 8:33).

"Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and **UPBRAIDED THEM** with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him" (Mark 16:14).

"But he turned, and **REBUKED THEM**, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of" (Luke 9:55).

"Then he said unto them, **O FOOLS** and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken" (Luke 24:25).

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else **I WILL COME UNTO THEE QUICKLY, AND WILL REMOVE THY CANDLESTICK** out of his place, except thou repent" (Revelation 2:5).

"But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, **WHICH I ALSO HATE**" (Revelation 2:6).

"So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will

come unto thee quickly, and **WILL FIGHT AGAINST THEM WITH THE SWORD OF MY MOUTH**" (Revelation 2:15-16).

"Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And **I WILL KILL HER CHILDREN WITH DEATH**; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works" (Revelation 2:22-23).

"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, **I WILL COME ON THEE AS A THIEF**, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Revelation 3:3).

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, **I WILL SPUE THEE OUT OF MY MOUTH**" (Revelation 3:15-16).

Five times in the Gospels, Christ expressed disappointment and reproof by saying that the disciples were of little faith (Mat. 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; Lk. 12:28).

Christ also "looked round about on them with anger" (Mark 3:5); called Israel a "generation of vipers" (Ma. 12:34) and a "faithless and perverse generation" (Mat. 17:17); called the Jewish leaders "hypocrites ... blind guides ... fools and blind ... serpents" (Mat. 23:13-33); sharply, fearfully upbraided the cities in which He did mighty works (Mat. 11:20-24). He called Herod a fox (Lk. 13:32). He twice made a whip and drove the moneychangers and sellers out of the temple (Jn. 2:15-17; Mk. 11:15-17). He commanded that holy things not be given to dogs and pigs (Mat. 7:6). He will smite the nations (Rev. 19:15).

Under grace the following things are true that pertain to a strong disciplinary ministry and environment:

- John warned about a sin unto death (1 John 5:16-17).
- Ananias and Sapphira were killed by God (Acts 5).
- Many church members were sick and died at Corinth (1 Cor. 11:30).
- A church member was turned over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh (1 Cor. 5:5).
- Paul feared being cast away or rejected and put on a shelf in regard to service (1 Cor. 9:27).
- Paul taught Timothy to keep God's commands without spot (1 Tim. 6:14).
- Jude instructed saints to *earnestly contend* for the faith (Jude 3).
- Paul taught the saints to separate from disobedient brethren (2 Thess. 3:6).
- Hebrews teaches that we are to serve God with godly fear because He is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:28-29).
- Paul taught the brethren to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts (Titus 2:11-12).
- Paul taught the brethren to reject heretics after only the first and second admonition (Titus 3:10-11).

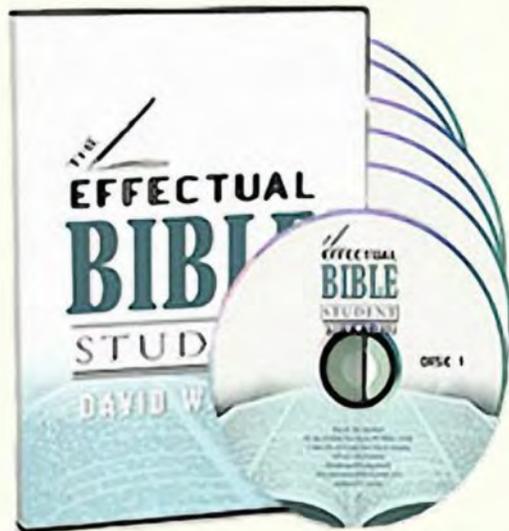
- John taught the brethren to love not the world (1 John 2:15-17).
- James called the brethren adulterers and adulteresses for loving the world (Jam. 4:4).
- Paul warned that every believer will be judged by Christ (1 Cor. 3:12-15).

Paul exemplifies the right “balance” in ministry. He said, “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample” (Phil. 3:17). See also 1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1.

On the one hand he was as gentle as a nurse with the believers (1 Thess. 2:7). On the other hand, he was firm and unyielding about discipline (1 Cor. 5; 2 The. 3:6-14). He was a strong reproof (e.g., 1 Cor. 6:5; 15:33-36; Gal. 3:1), and he taught the preachers under his watchcare to be the same (2 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:13; 2:15).

Paul’s ministry of reproof to the carnal church at Corinth worked repentance and change (2 Cor. 7:8-11).

A sound ministry of reproof and discipline has the same power today.



## The Effectual Bible Student

Book and Disk Set - Free Download

by David W. Cloud

A 12-hour series of video presentations plus an accompanying textbook containing a detailed outline to the course. It is our goal and passion to help God's people, including teenagers, become effectual Bible students.

The course, which is the product of 40 years of Bible study and teaching, has life-changing potential. It has four major sections:

- (1) The spiritual requirements for effectual Bible study,
- (2) Tips for daily Bible study,
- (3) Principles of Bible interpretation, and
- (4) How to use Bible study tools.

It deals with how to train young people to be effective Bible students and how to involve them in the church's ministry.

[Available From Way of Life Website](#)

# Lack of PRAYER

By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from the latest edition of *Why Most [Independent Baptist Churches Will Be Emerging](#)*, available from Way of Life Literature in print and a free eBook edition, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).

Prayer is the spiritual dynamo of a church, and the frightful lack of serious prayer is another reason why we are convinced that most Independent Baptist congregations will be emerging within 10-20 years.

I attended a mid-week prayer meeting recently at an Independent Baptist church that is all too typical. It consisted of about four minutes of silent prayer closed by a brother who prayed for about 30 seconds. That, plus the prayers at the beginning and end of the services and the prayers before the preaching, forms pretty much the sum total of this church's corporate prayer effort.

It used to be common for churches to have a series of prayer meetings preceding Bible conferences and "revivals," but that type of thing is exceedingly rare today. Too many churches are trusting the power of the speaker rather than beseeching the power of God, and as a result there is very little life-changing power. It is all too evident in the lives of the young people.

A few churches are doing a little better. Some have short prayer meetings before the services for the members who will attend. And some have a more serious mid-week prayer meeting in which the members break up into twos and threes to spend some time in intercessory prayer.

But even in these cases, the prayer meetings are usually poorly attended and the prayer time is rushed.

Most members of Independent Baptist churches are *not* prayer warriors.

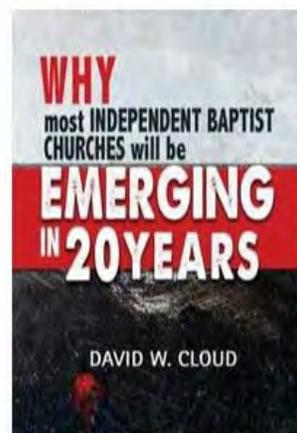
I have been trying to challenge churches to have some special prayer meetings for America, but I don't know of even one that has taken the challenge. Yet this is the only thing that could possibly bring significant change to the nation, and I, for one, believe that such prayer *would* change things.

We are busy fighting spiritual battles with fleshly weapons such as Tea Party politics and filling our minds with "conservative" talk radio and television (e.g., Fox News), and we have neglected the weapons that bring true spiritual power to bear.

## Why Most Independent Baptist Churches Will Be Emerging In 20 Years

This book documents the collapse of separatism among fundamental Baptists and the reasons why: the maligning of warning and reproof,

unquestioning loyalty to man, following the crowd, ignorance about important issues, soft separatism, lack of serious discipleship, carelessness about music, and Quick Prayerism.



Available from Way of Life Literature in print and a free eBook edition, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).



“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people” (Exodus 32:7-14).

This is one of the most amazing prayers in the Bible. It literally changed the course of history. Note some lessons:

1. Moses reasoned with God. Though God is the Almighty, the Infinite, the omniscient, the One Who knows the beginning from the end, He made man in His image and He invites men to reason together with Him.
2. Moses based his prayer upon his concern for God’s testimony in the world (Ex. 32:11-12) and upon

God’s covenant with Abraham (Ex. 32:13). Thus he was petitioning God on the basis of God’s own Word and promises. This is the solid foundation for answered prayer.

3. Prayer changes things both in heaven and on earth (Ex. 32:14)! Moses’ petition changed God’s mind and literally changed the course of history. God intended to destroy Israel and raise up a new nation from Moses, and He could have done that, because He can do anything, but because of Moses’ petition this did not happen. We don’t have to understand how God can change His mind. All we have to do is believe God’s own Word! We deal more with this in the book [\*Things Hard to Be Understood: A Handbook of Biblical Difficulties\*](#).
4. Moses fasted and prayed 40 days (Ex. 32:30-34; De. 9:18-19). Compare Matthew 17:21, which teaches that prayer with fasting is a necessary part of spiritual warfare.
5. It appears that Moses was willing to go to hell for Israel’s sake (Ex. 32:31-32). Compare the apostle Paul’s testimony in Romans 9:3. Moses and Paul reflect the compassion of Christ, who was willing to suffer in the place of sinners.
6. Note that there is a book of life. It is the book that contains the names of those who trust in the blood of Christ. Compare Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15.
7. Moses’ prayer also stayed God’s judgment upon Aaron (De. 9:20).

What a powerful prayer warrior Moses was, and what a tremendous example he is to us in this most essential work!



The following is from John Phillips' commentary on Philippians 4:

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

I must add one other thing, however, for it is sometimes true that in God's sight we have a need for that which is not so pleasant. We need to be disciplined, taught, or tested. If that is the case, then it is also true that Philippians 4:19 is a promise of God to supply the unpleasant discipline and testing.

Early in his ministry Harry Ironside had an experience that illustrates this provision. On one occasion he had acted on faith, as he often did, to preach for two weeks in Fresno, California. But the time came, surprisingly to him, when he was entirely out of money and had no funds with which to eat. He was even forced to check out of his hotel room and leave his suitcase at a drugstore to be picked up later.

There was some complaining and bitterness. When the thought of Philippians 4:19 crossed his mind—“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”—his spirit rebelled.

“Why then doesn't he do it?” he questioned. It seemed that God had promised, but he was no longer keeping his word.

That night, as he settled down under a tree on the lawn of the courthouse in Fresno, God spoke to Ironside concerning things about which he had grown careless. In his prayer and meditation he experienced a spiritual awakening.

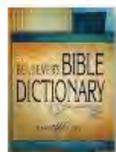
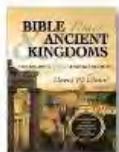
From that time on the work went better. Old friends appeared, first to invite him to lunch and later to provide accommodation. The church to which he was ministering took a collection to help him out on his return journey.

At the end he went to the post office and found a letter from his father, much to his surprise. He opened it, and there staring him in the face was a postscript that said, “God spoke to me through Philippians 4:19 today. He has promised to supply all our need. Some day he may see that I need a starving! If he does, he will supply that.”

Ironside says, “Oh, how real it all seemed then! I saw that God had been putting me through that test in order to bring me closer to himself, and to bring me face to face with things that I had been neglecting.”

He wrote later that he wished to share the experience with others who may be going through similar times of testing.

### Way of Life Literature - Online Bookstore



<http://www.wayoflife.org/publications/index.html>

## DIGGING IN THE WALLS

God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw. ..." (Ezek. 8:7-10).

Ezekiel was then instructed to preach against the errors of the leaders and to tell the people the things he had witnessed.

"Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. ... Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the Lord had shewed me" (Ezek. 11:4,25).

The hour in which we live is very similar to that of Ezekiel's day. Many of those who profess to be the people of God are apostate. It was prophesied in the New Testament Scriptures that such would be the case in the closing hours of our age. This will culminate in the brief worldwide rule of an utterly apostate Harlot "church" (2 Tim. 3-4; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Pet. 2-3; Jude; Rev. 17).

As in Ezekiel's day much of the apostasy of our hour is hidden from the view of the average Christian. We intend by God's grace to "dig in the walls" of modern ecumenism and to expose and cry out against the things we find. In this section we also report on secular events which are relevant to Christians. May God give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to obey. Is the truth of God not worthy of defense?



### **BARNA: ONLY 3% OF U.S. TEENS READ BIBLE DAILY**

(Friday Church News Notes, September 2, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- According to a new nationwide study by Barna, only 3% of teens in America read the Bible daily. The study, *2016 Teen State of the Bible*, found that 69% own a Bible, but very few are serious Bible students. Group publishing has a proposed solution called *Pierced*, a New Testament aimed for teens "who don't read the Bible." It "reads more like a novel than a textbook." Stripped away are "centuries of added formatting" such as chapter and verse numbers and footnotes. Added are "the actual notes of ten teens" so "the reader can journey through the story of Jesus with his or her peers." Veronica Preston, Design Artist of *Pierced*, says, "It allows them to know that they are not alone; wrestling through God's Word with others ... feeling free to be vulnerable in the process" ("Novel-like New Testament Created for Teens Who Don't Read the Bible," *Christian Newswire*, Aug. 26, 2016). What teens really need is new birth salvation and serious discipleship, a prominent part of which is to learn how to be an effectual Bible student. This is what happened to me in 1973 at age 23 years. I was born again that summer, and suddenly I had something I never had when I was growing up in

church, and that was a hunger to know God and His Word. I didn't want a watered down, novel-like edition of God's Word. I wanted an accurate translation of the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts that were written by holy prophets of old under divine inspiration. The Bible is not a novel or a cool Facebook page. The newest part is 2,000 years old, and God has ordained that some real labor is required to learn it and to benefit from it. Proverbs 2 says the effectual student of God's Word must be like those who seek for silver, which implies serious digging. Paul instructed Timothy to be "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). We have had the blessing of teaching many young people to be effectual Bible students, but first they must be born again and then surrender to God's will, which requires separation from the evil things of this world (Romans 12:1-2). Without that, they can read the cheap novel-like New Testaments and paraphrases 24/7 and never learn God's Word. (We recommend [The Effectual Bible Student](#), a 12-hour video course available on DVD or by free eVideo download from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO REJECTS SPEECH CENSORSHIP** (Friday Church News Notes, September 2, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org),



[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- In a letter to the incoming Class of 2020, the University of Chicago's Dean of Students rejects the growing practice of "trigger warnings" and "safe spaces" which focus on providing an "offense free" environment rather than freedom of inquiry and speech. Following is an excerpt from the letter: "Once here you will discover that one of the University of Chicago's defining characteristics is our commitment to freedom of inquiry and expression. ... Members of our community are encouraged to speak, write, listen, challenge and learn, without fear of censorship. ... You will find that we expect members of our community to be engaged in rigorous debate, discussion, and even disagreement. At times this may challenge you and even cause discomfort. Our commitment to academic freedom means that we do not support so-called 'trigger warnings,' we do not cancel invited speakers because their topics might prove controversial, and we do not condone the creation of intellectual 'safe spaces' where individuals can retreat from ideas and perspectives at odds with their own" (cited from "University of Chicago," Newsmax.com, Aug. 25, 2016). According to *Forbes* magazine, the University of Chicago is #20 among America's top colleges and #13 among research universities. Nearly 90 Nobel Prize winners are affiliated with the school.

**CUBA'S CRACKDOWN ON CHURCHES** (Friday Church News Notes, September 2, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Cuba: Church Demolitions Gather Pace," Christian Solidarity



Worldwide, Aug. 16, 2016: "The first half of 2016 has seen church demolitions in Cuba gather pace as the government crackdown on freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) on the island continues. The authorities have also begun to confiscate 1,400 Assemblies of God (AOG) churches that were earmarked for seizure in 2015. The latest report by Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) details 1,606 separate violations between January and July 2016. Cases include the demolition and confiscation of church buildings, the destruction of church property, arbitrary detention and other forms of harassment, in particular, seizure of religious leaders' personal belongings. The government has continued to follow through with the confiscation of 1,400 AOG churches; 100 of those churches are under threat of demolition. AOG leaders and leaders from other denominations expressed concern to CSW that the government's repression of religious groups has worsened significantly over the past year. There has been an unprecedented spate of church demolitions. Four large churches linked to the unregistered Apostolic Movement were destroyed by the government in central and eastern Cuba. In each of these cases, the pastors and their families were dragged out of their homes in the very early hours of the morning. They were also detained and held in

separate police stations for the duration of the demolition. In some of these cases, large numbers of members of the churches were detained, apparently to stop them from protesting. The report also details the arbitrary detention and harassment of many church leaders."

**LEADING SCHOLARS DEBUNK MEDIA NARRATIVES ON HOMOSEXUALITY** (Friday Church News Notes, September 2, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Nearly Everything the Media Tell You about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Is Wrong," CNSNews.com, Aug. 22, 2016: "A major new report, published today in the journal *The New Atlantis*, challenges the leading narratives that the media has pushed regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. Co-authored by two of the nation's leading scholars on mental health and sexuality, the 143-page report discusses over 200 peer-reviewed studies in the biological, psychological, and social sciences, painstakingly documenting what scientific research shows and *does not show* about sexuality and gender. The major takeaway, as the editor of the journal explains, is that 'some of the most frequently heard claims about sexuality and gender are not supported by scientific evidence.' Here are four of the report's most



important conclusions: One - ‘The belief that sexual orientation is an innate, biologically fixed human property—that people are born *that way*—is *not supported by scientific evidence*.’ Two - ‘Likewise, the belief that gender identity is an innate, fixed human property independent of biological sex—so that a person might be *a man trapped in a woman’s body* or *a woman trapped in a man’s body*—is *not supported by scientific evidence*.’ Three - ‘Only a minority of children who express gender-atypical thoughts or behavior will continue to do so into adolescence or adulthood. There is *no evidence* that all such children should be encouraged to become transgender, much less subjected to hormone treatments or surgery.’ Four - ‘Non-heterosexual and transgender people have higher rates of mental health problems (anxiety, depression, suicide), as well as behavioral and social problems (substance abuse, intimate partner violence), than the general population. Discrimination alone *does not account for the entire disparity*.’ The report, ‘Sexuality and Gender: Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences,’ is co-authored by Dr. Lawrence Mayer and Dr. Paul McHugh. Mayer is a scholar-in-residence in the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University and a professor of statistics and biostatistics at Arizona State University. McHugh, whom the editor of *The New Atlantis* describes as ‘arguably the most important American psychiatrist of the last half-century,’ is a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and was for 25 years the psychiatrist-in-chief at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. It was during his tenure as psychiatrist-in-chief at Johns



**OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ABDICATING U.S. STEWARDSHIP OF THE INTERNET** (Friday Church News Notes, September 2, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “An Internet Giveaway to the U.N.,” *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 28, 2016: “When the Obama administration announced its plan to give up U.S. protection of the internet, it promised the United Nations would never take control. But because of the administration’s naiveté or arrogance, U.N. control is the likely result if the U.S. gives up internet stewardship as planned at midnight on Sept. 30. ... It’s shocking the administration admits it has no plan for how Icann retains its antitrust exemption. The reason Icann can operate the entire World Wide Web root zone is that it has the status of a legal monopolist, stemming from its contract with the Commerce Department that makes Icann an ‘instrumentality’ of government. Antitrust rules don’t

apply to governments or organizations operating under government control. ... Without the U.S. contract, Icann would seek to be overseen by another governmental group so as to keep its antitrust exemption. Authoritarian regimes have already proposed Icann become part of the U.N. to make it easier for them to censor the internet globally. So much for the Obama pledge that the U.S. would never be replaced by a ‘government-led or an inter-governmental organization solution.’ Rick Manning, president of Americans for Limited Government, called it ‘simply stunning’ that the ‘politically blinded Obama administration missed the obvious point that Icann loses its antitrust shield should the government relinquish control.’ ... As the administration spent the past two years preparing to give up the contract with Icann, it also stopped actively overseeing the group. That allowed Icann to abuse its monopoly over internet domains, which earns it hundreds of millions of dollars a year.”

Hopkins that he put an end to sex reassignment surgery there, after a study launched at Hopkins revealed that it didn’t have the benefits for which doctors and patients had long hoped.”

**SAINT MOTHER TERESA** (Friday Church News Notes, September 9, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The late Mother Teresa was pronounced a Catholic saint on

**FUNNY LITTLE PURPLE, GOOGLY-EYED SQUID**

(Friday Church News Notes, September 2, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Googly-eyed purple squid sighting delights scientists,” *Fox News Science*, Aug. 18, 2016: “The so-called stubby squid (*Rossia pacifica*) is a species of bobtail squid native to the northern Pacific Ocean. These adorable sea creatures can be found in waters from Japan to Southern California, and typically dwell along the ocean floor, at depths of around 984 feet, though they have been spotted as deep as 4,260 feet, according to the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI). The stubby squid’s giant eyes, that ‘look painted on,’ delighted the scientists aboard the



Exploration Vessel (E/V) Nautilus. In a live stream of the Nautilus’ undersea explorations, one researcher said the googly-eyed squid looks ‘like some little kid dropped their toy.’ ... ‘They actually have this pretty awesome superpower, they can turn on a little sticky mucus jacket over their body and sort of collect bits of sand or pebbles or whatever they’re burrowing into and make a really nice camouflage jacket,’ Wishnak said. ‘When they go to ambush something and prey on something, they’re able to sort of turn off that mucus jacket.’”

Exploration Vessel (E/V) Nautilus. In a live stream of the Nautilus’ undersea explorations, one researcher said the googly-eyed squid looks ‘like some little kid dropped their toy.’ ... ‘They actually have this pretty awesome superpower, they can turn on a little sticky mucus jacket over their body and sort of collect bits of sand or pebbles or whatever they’re burrowing into and make a really nice camouflage jacket,’ Wishnak said. ‘When they go to ambush something and prey on something, they’re able to sort of turn off that mucus jacket.’”

Sunday, September 4, by Pope Francis. Sainthood requires the documentation of two miracles attributed to the deceased individual. The first, in 1998, the year after her death, was the cure of a stomach tumor in an Indian woman. Though the bishop declared this a miracle performed by the dead nun, the woman’s husband said he believed that medicine had cured his wife. The second case, in 2008, was the “inexplicable” recovery of a Brazilian man who woke from a coma after his wife prayed to the nun. By her own admission, Mother Teresa found only darkness in her spiritual life and practice. This is documented in the shocking book *Mother Teresa: Come*

*Be My Light, the Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta* (2007), which contains statements made by the nun to her confessors and superiors over a period of more than 65 years. In March 1953, she wrote to her confessor: “THERE IS SUCH TERRIBLE DARKNESS WITHIN ME, as if everything was dead. It has been like this more or less from the



time I started ‘the work.’” In 1979 she wrote: “THE SILENCE AND THE EMPTINESS IS SO GREAT--that I look and do not see,--Listen and do not hear.” Her private statements about the spiritual darkness she encountered in contemplative prayer continued in this vein until her death, and they are the loudest possible warning about the danger of the Catholic contemplative mysticism which is sweeping through evangelicalism. Contemplative practices, such as the Jesus Prayer, breath prayers, visualizing prayer, centering prayer, and *lectio divina* are exceedingly dangerous. They are vehicles to bring practitioners into contact with demons. Many who engage in these things end up believing in a pagan concept of God such as pantheism (God is everything) and panentheism (God is in everything). Practitioners typically become increasingly ecumenical and interfaith in thinking. See [Evangelicals and Contemplative Prayer](#), available in print and free eBook editions from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org). For a much more extensive look at this subject see [Contemplative Mysticism: A Powerful Ecumenical Bond](#).

**A TRUE SAINT** (Friday Church News Notes, September 9, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The Roman Catholic doctrine of sainthood proves its heretical character. Nowhere do we find Christians in the New Testament churches praying to saints. The Bible instructs us to pray to God the Father through Jesus Christ, the one Mediator between God and men (1 Tim. 2:5). To pray to a mere man or woman is blasphemy. In the New Testament the term “saint” is applied



to all born again Christians, not to a special class of deceased Christians. See Acts 9:13, 32, 41; 26:10; Rom. 8:27; 12:13; 15:25, 31; 16:2, 15; 1 Cor. 6:1, 2; 14:33; 16:1, 15; 2 Cor. 8:4; 9:1, 12; 13:13; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2, 4; Phile. 7; Heb. 6:10; 13:24. Even the carnal Christians at Corinth are called saints (2 Cor. 1:1). Born again Christians are not saints because they are especially holy; they are saints because they have a sinless Saviour and He has removed their sin before God (Rev. 1:5, 6; 1 Pet. 2:9, 10). In the sight of God, through Jesus Christ, the believer is "holy and unblameable and unproveable" (Col. 1:22). This is why we can be called saints. Praise His holy name!

**PARIS' PUBLIC SCHOOLS NO-GO ZONES FOR JEWS** (Friday Church News Notes, September 9, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "In Paris, Jewish Students Find Public Schools a No-Go Zone," *The Times of Israel*, Aug. 25, 2016: "Twenty-five years after he graduated from a public high school in the French capital, Stephane Tayar recalls favorably his time in one of the world's most thorough education systems. As for many other French Jews his age, the state-subsidized upbringing has worked out well for Tayar, a 43-year-old communications and computers specialist. ... 'You learn to get along with all kinds of

people--Muslims, Christians, poor, rich,' Tayar said in recalling his school years. ... But when the time came for Tayar and his wife to enroll their own boy and girl, the couple opted for Jewish institutions--part of a network of dozens of private establishments with state recognition, hefty tuition and student bodies that are made up almost exclusively of Jews. 'Enrolling a Jewish kid into a public school was normal when I was growing up,' Tayar said in a recent interview as he waited with two helmets in hand to pick up his youngest from her Jewish elementary school in eastern Paris. 'Nowadays forget it; no longer realistically possible. Anti-Semitic bullying means it would be too damaging for any Jewish kid you put there.' ... The increase in schoolyard anti-Semitism in France, first noted in an internal Education Ministry report in 2004, coincided with an increase in anti-Semitic incidents overall. Prior to 2000, only a few dozen incidents were recorded annually in France. Since then, however, hundreds have been reported annually. Many attacks--and a majority of violent ones--are committed by people with a Muslim background, who target Jews as such or as payback for Israel's actions in what is known as the 'new anti-Semitism.' In 2012, payback for Israel's actions in Gaza was the stated motivation of a jihadist who killed three children and a rabbi at a Jewish school in Toulouse. Since



then, Jewish institutions across Europe and French Jewish schools especially have been protected by armed guards--most often soldiers toting automatic rifles."

**THE CAVE MEN OF SPAIN** (Friday Church News Notes, September 9, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)



- There has never been a cave man or stone age, but cave men do exist. They are simply people who live in caves. The largest collection of cave men in one place today is Guadix, Spain, where there are 2,000 underground dwellings, including homes, churches, restaurants, hotels, and government buildings ("The cave dwellers of southern Spain," BBC, Aug. 15, 2016). Some of the inhabited caves date back 1,000 years to the Islamic (Moors), who ruled from the 8th to the 15th centuries. Other towns near Guadix also have cave districts.

**THE BIBLE, VEGETARIANISM, AND MEAT EATING** (Friday Church News Notes, September 9, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Adam was given herbs to eat (Genesis 3:18). But this does not mean that vegetarianism is superior to meat eating either in health or spirituality. After the Flood, God instructed Noah to eat meat (Genesis 9:3-4). Under the law of Moses, meat eating was allowed but regulated

(e.g., clean and unclean animals in Leviticus 11). In fact, the eating of certain meats was commanded (e.g., the Passover lamb in Exodus 12). In the church age, there is dietary liberty, and we are warned that those who make dietary laws are following doctrines of devils (1 Tim. 4:4-5), though there remains a restriction against eating blood (Gen. 9:4; Acts 15:29).

**WIFE OF NAZI LEADER JOSEPH GOEBBELS' HAD JEWISH FATHER** (Friday Church News Notes, September 9, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Goebbels wife had Jewish father," *The Times of Israel*, Aug. 21, 2016: "The wife of Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels had a Jewish father, according to a new document discovered in the Berlin archives. The document was published in the German newspaper *Bild*, the London-based *Jewish Chronicle* reported. It shows that the father of Magda Goebbels was a Jewish businessman named Richard Friedlander, who married Magda's mother, Auguste Behrend, when Magda was about 7 years old. ... Friedlander died in the Buchenwald concentration camp in 1939; his daughter did not attempt to help him. The Goebbels had been portrayed by the Nazis as the ideal Aryan family. Joseph and Magda Goebbels and their



six children committed suicide on April 30, 1945, a day after Adolf Hitler took his life."

### MOURNING OR FEASTING

(Friday Church News Notes, September 9, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - "And in that day did the LORD God of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth: And behold joy and gladness, and slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die. And it was revealed in mine ears by the LORD of hosts, Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you till ye die, saith the LORD God of hosts" (Isaiah 22:12-13). When Isaiah delivered this prophecy, Judah was in a desperate situation. Assyria had either already destroyed the northern kingdom or was on the verge of doing so. The land was filled with idolatry and moral filthiness. In that dire time, God graciously but forcefully called upon His people to mourn and repent and seek His face, but instead they partied and proclaimed that there was no hope for help or revival. This is exactly what is happening in America, Canada, and other Western nations today. Politically, morally, and economically, the situation is dire, but instead of calling for repentance and earnest prayer as per 2 Chronicles 7:14 and 1 Timothy 2:1-4, most Bible-believing churches are content with their lukewarm spirituality, their infantile discipleship, their shallow biblicism, their smooth preaching, their entertainment agenda. They blame the moral reprobates, the atheists, and the liberal politicians for the nation's



problems, but it is more likely that the root of the problem lies at their own doorsteps. America and Canada don't fear God because 99% of the churches don't preach the fear of God. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

### HUMAN EYE CAN DETECT SINGLE PHOTON OF LIGHT

(Friday Church News Notes, September 9, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - A new study has found that the human eye can detect a single photon of light. Alipasha Vaziri, head of the Laboratory of Neurotechnology and Biophysics at Rockefeller University, said, "If you imagine this, it is remarkable: a photon, the smallest physical entity with quantum properties of which light consists, is interacting with a biological system consisting of billions of cells, all in a warm and wet environment. The response that the photon generates survives all the way to the level of our awareness despite the ubiquitous background noise. Any man-made



detector would need to be cooled and isolated from noise to behave the same way” (“Human eyes can detect the smallest units of light,” United Press International, July 21, 2016). The scientists want to figure out how such “systems could have evolved,” but what they should do is back up and take a long, hard look at the doctrine of evolution itself. Every feature of the human body screams out “design.” In fact, it screams out “divine design.” The human eye, which is so complicated that it bewilders the world’s top scientists, could not have come into being by any evolutionary mechanism. “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

**HIGH PRIEST SELECTED; JEWISH TEMPLE SERVICE COULD BE REINSTATED IN ONE WEEK** (Friday Church News Notes, September 16, 2016,

[www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- Preparations for the Third Temple continue. The Jewish Sanhedrin has recommended Rabbi Baruch Kahane as the next Kohen Gadol (high priest) in case political conditions change and Jews have access to the Temple Mount for sacrifices. Kahane “is confident that if that should happen, Temple service could begin in less

than one week” (“High Priest Is Chosen,” *Breaking Israel News*, Aug. 29, 2016). The Temple Institute, founded in 1986, has fashioned the necessary items for the temple, including priestly garments, the high priest’s golden crown costing \$30,000, the high priest’s breastplate with its 12 precious stones inscribed with the names of the tribes of Israel, a copper laver, an incense altar, silver trumpets, gold- and silver-plated shofars, harps, and many other things. Of special interest is the menorah that was fashioned from 95 pounds of pure gold. In December 2007 the menorah was moved to an outside location on the Western Wall Plaza across from the Temple Mount, where it sits today awaiting the building of the Third Temple. The Temple Institute has also created a registry of priests and established a priest training school. In Jewish tradition, the rebuilding of the temple is associated with the coming of the Messiah. According to Maimonides (also called Rambam), the highest rabbinical authority, any Jew that starts rebuilding the temple is a potential Messiah. Shimon ben Kosiba was considered a Messiah in the second century when he led a revolt to recapture Jerusalem and build the temple. Ben Kosiba was named *Bar Kokhba* (“Son of the Star”) based on the Messianic prophecy of Numbers 24:17, and a coin was struck depicting the temple with the Ark of the Covenant inside



and the Messianic star on the roof. By this tradition, it is possible to see how the Antichrist will be looked upon as the Messiah. On a visit to the Temple Institute a few years ago, a representative said: “We are waiting for a Messiah. In Jewish tradition, we believe that in every generation there is someone who can be the Messiah. The question is who will he be. The answer is only someone who does specific things can be called the Messiah. The one who brings Israel back to Israel. The one who builds the temple again. The one who makes Israel go according to the commandments. After that he can be called the Messiah.” This is a description of the Messiah as a Super Problem Solver, which is exactly how the Antichrist will present himself at first. It is important to understand that the Jews are not looking for a Saviour Messiah to take away their sins. When we asked a Reformed Jewish American rabbi in Jerusalem, “How do you purge your sins?” and he replied, “We ask God for forgiveness through prayer and through actions.” He said that to interpret Leviticus 17:11 as meaning that man needs a literal blood sacrifice to be acceptable to God is false. The Jews stumbled at the Lamb of God 2,000 years ago. They were looking for a Messiah to save them from Rome, not a Messiah to die for their sins. They wanted a king, not a Saviour, and nothing has changed in that regard.

**ARCHAEOLOGISTS RESTORE TEMPLE FLOOR WHERE JESUS WALKED** (Friday Church News Notes, September 16, 2016,

[www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Archaeologists Restore,”



ChristianToday.com, Sept. 8, 2016: "Israeli archaeologists have restored floor tile fragments they believe originally stood in Jerusalem's Second Temple. The temple was destroyed in AD 70, with its ruins now known as the Temple Mount to Jews, and the Noble Sanctuary to Muslims. For Gabriel Barkay, an archaeologist who has excavated in Jerusalem for over 50 years, the restoration is profoundly significant. Speaking to Media Line, he said, "It is very touching for me to realise that these are the actual floors upon which our forefathers walked and sacrificed as they were active on the Temple Mount 2,000 years ago." The reconstructed tiles are part of the Temple Mount sifting project, an Israeli endeavour which began in 2005. The initiative commenced after the Muslim Waqf, a religious trust which controls the holy site, removed 400 truckloads of artifact-saturated soil from the holy site for the expansion of nearby mosque. The extraction of the soil was an opportunity for excavating a site previously untouched because of the sensitivity surrounding the site, which is significant to both Muslims and Jews and has frequently been a flashpoint of controversy. ... As for the temple floor restoration, about 600 coloured stone tile segments have been uncovered, more than 100 of which date back to the Herodian Second Temple period."

## HATRED OF JEWS AT "HIGHEST LEVEL OF OUR LIFETIMES"

(Friday Church News Notes, September 16, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Hatred of Jews at 'Highest Level,'" *The Algemeiner*, Sept. 7, 2016: "Hatred of Jews and demonization of Israel are at 'the highest level of our lifetimes,' Israel's UN envoy warned on Monday during a high-level forum on antisemitism held by the world body at its headquarters in New York. 'Over 1/3 of European Jews are afraid to wear a yarmulke or Star of David in public,' Danny Danon said in an address to the forum. 'More than half of French Jews have considered emigrating because they don't feel safe living as Jews in France. Today we hear things about Jews and the Jewish people that we thought belonged to the pages of history. ... Antisemitism is returning to everyday life without shame.' ... There has been a noted rise in antisemitism in Europe in recent years. ... Danon said, 'In our internet era, [hatred of Jews] has gone global. ... The enemies of the Jewish people are using the tools of modern technology to target and harass Jews around the world.' ... Danon went on to call out the UN for the antisemitism exhibited by a number of its member states. 'There is a place where some are not ashamed to spread lies and slander about Israel



and the Jewish people and you are sitting in it right now, here at the UN,' Danon said."

## NASA'S RIDICULOUS MISSION

(Friday Church News Notes, September 16, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)



- NASA has done some amazing things in its history, at the head of which was the Apollo space mission and the Space Shuttle program, but in recent decades it has become fixated on missions that are technologically brilliant but have patently ridiculous objectives. The latest is OSIRIS-Rex, a mission to collect dirt from an asteroid, dirt which is supposed to "hold the key to answering some of our biggest questions about the universe, such as where we came from, and why we exist" ("NASA is launching a mission that could solve the mystery of life," *Business Insider*, Sept. 8, 2016). The spacecraft, which launched successfully last week, is tasked with journeying two years to rendezvous with an asteroid, draw near enough to scoop up some dirt, and return to earth. This mission is ridiculous for two reasons. First, it is ridiculous because there is zero evidence for evolution and irrefutable evidence for divine creation. Known laws of science, such as biogenesis and the laws of thermodynamics, destroy the myth of evolution. The very brilliance required to send a spacecraft to an asteroid proves the

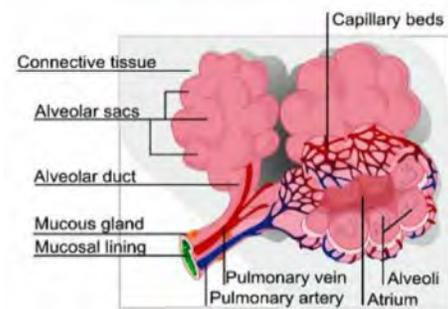
Bible’s teaching that man is made in God’s image and is *not* an animal. Second, the mission is ridiculous because if evolution were true and the universe is the product of a meaningless Big Bang and random, non-intelligence-driven evolutionary forces, there would be no meaning to life. NASA would be playing silly games in a purposeless, dying universe. Man’s life would have no more ultimate meaning than a worm’s. Thank God, that isn’t true, but it is the inescapable conclusion of the dogma of evolution.

**DRIVERLESS CARS AND SOCIAL ENGINEERING** (Friday Church News Notes, September 16, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The driverless car phenomenon is steamrolling. Massive amounts of money are being poured into development of the technology. Google is testing driverless cars in eight states plus the District of Columbia. Singapore’s nuTonomy company is testing driverless taxis in a small region of the city (though they still have people in the taxis monitoring them). Uber is doing the same thing with taxis in Pittsburgh. Ford plans to put fully autonomous cars on the road by 2021. While I don’t think the driverless car phenomenon will play out as quickly and broadly as currently predicted, there can be no doubt that it is coming and that it will cause major changes



to the reality of driving. I believe the driverless car business will ultimately be about control and taking away people’s freedom, independence, and choices. Toby Walsh, professor of artificial intelligence at the University of New South Wales, says, “Ninety-five per cent of road accidents are caused by driver error and, AS SOON AS WE CAN GET THE HUMAN OUT OF THE LOOP, the vast majority of those accidents are going to stop happening” (“Machine smarts: How will pedestrians negotiate with driverless cars?” *The Guardian*, Sept. 9, 2016). Professor Robyn Dowling of the University of Sydney says, “We can already see the end of the family car coming in the near future” (“Driverless cars could lead to transport revolution,” [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au), Sept. 9, 2016). This isn’t just about technology; it’s about social engineering. As such, it is very much a sign of the times.

**WHY DO WE SIGH?** (Friday Church News Notes, September 16, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, July 22, 2016: “As we all know, coughing is a reflex that clears our breathing passages from secretions, irritants, foreign particles and even microbes that might make us sick. We also know that sneezing is a reflex that cleanses our nasal cavity by forcefully expelling foreign particles and irritants. But why do we sigh? Is it just because we’re exasperated or surprised? Well, here’s a surprise for you. Though you aren’t even aware of it, you take a deep breath--that is, you sigh--about 12 times every hour. As researchers have discovered, we sigh about every five minutes to keep



our lungs functioning properly. In fact, if we didn’t sigh, we would die. Researchers from UCLA and Stanford call sighing ‘a life-sustaining reflex that prevents air sacs located in the lungs, called alveoli, from collapsing.’ Study co-author Jack Feldman told LiveScience, ‘A human lung has as much surface area as a tennis court, and so that’s all folded inside your chest.’ If humans didn’t sigh about every five minutes, the alveoli would not be able to reinflate, causing the lungs to fail. The only way to pop alveoli open again is to take a deep breath. Now remember that sighing is just one of thousands if not millions of vital processes going on inside your body all the time. If your body was lacking even one of those vital processes, you’d be in big trouble. So the next time you sigh, thank your all-wise Creator!”

**AGENDA-DRIVEN HARVARD PROFESSOR DUPED BY “JESUS’ WIFE” MANUSCRIPT FRAUD** (Friday Church News Notes, September 23, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Thomas D. Williams, Ph.D., “Jesus’ Wife Claims Revealed as ‘Whopping Fraud,’” *Breitbart*, Sep. 14, 2016: “The Harvard Professor who confidently proclaimed to the world she possessed evidence that suggested Jesus may have had a wife



has now been outed as a second-rate academic who allowed herself to be duped by a con man. Dr. Karen L. King, professor at Harvard Divinity School, earned her 15 minutes of fame by staking her reputation as a historian of early Christianity on the authenticity of an ancient papyrus stating: 'Jesus said to them, My wife ... she is able to be my disciple.' At a splashy roll-out a stone's throw from the Vatican in 2012, King presented a paper to more than 300 scholars from 27 countries, where she announced the discovery of an ancient scrap of papyrus in which Jesus refers to his 'wife,' whom King said is probably Mary Magdalene. ... The *Harvard Theological Review* published an entire journal edition on the 'Gospel of Jesus's Wife,' and the Smithsonian Channel produced a major documentary on the topic. *National Geographic* confidently announced, 'No Forgery Evidence Seen in *Gospel of Jesus's Wife* Papyrus' in its issue from April 11, 2014. The problem was, the document is a fake. Dr. King had actually received the papyrus from a pornographer named Walter Fritz, who invented a story of how he had come into possession of the fragment. ... King was so excited with the possibilities of the find, however, that she never bothered to check up on Fritz's credentials or the numerous inconsistencies in his story. ... The journalist who

uncovered the 'whopping fraud' was Ariel Sabar, who pursued the origins of the fragment, leading him to the home of Walter Fritz on Florida's southern Gulf Coast. Despite Dr. King's unwillingness to reveal the name of the person who had furnished her with the papyrus, after painstaking sleuthing, Sabar found him anyway. ... In his later piece, Sabar noted that King was particularly interested in Gnostic texts that assign Mary Magdalene a prominent role as Jesus's confidante and disciple, since proof that some early Christians also saw Mary Magdalene as Jesus's wife 'would be a rebuke to Church patriarchs.' Her ideological agenda, in other words, disposed her to believe Fritz's account of the papyrus."

**ISRAEL BUILDING MASSIVE UNDERGROUND WALL ON ITS BORDER WITH GAZA** (Friday Church News Notes, September 23, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Underground Gaza Wall against Tunnels," *BreakingIsraelNews*, Sept. 12, 2016: "The IDF has begun construction on a massive, \$600 million underground wall along the Israel-Gaza border intended to halt Hamas terror tunnels used to launch attacks and funnel weapons. The wall, which will run the length of Israel's 60-kilometer border with the Gaza Strip, will reach to a depth of several dozen meters, said IDF officials. The concrete barrier will also stretch above-ground. ... Israel broke ground for the first portion of the new barrier along northern Gaza, near the Sha'ar Hanegav Regional Council, which comprises a cluster of Israeli communities living under the constant threat of infiltration



from terrorists burrowing underneath the nearby border with the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. High-tech detection systems and sensors incorporated into the thick concrete wall will represent an additional barrier to terrorists. ... The IDF first proposed the wall in 2014, following Operation Protective Edge, a conflict with Hamas which saw terrorists entering Israel using a network of underground tunnels reaching from Gaza into Israel. Over 30 tunnels were then discovered and destroyed. Since then, IDF forces have uncovered another two tunnels. Hamas has continued to dig new underground passages unabatedly. Earlier in the year, residents in southern Israeli towns bordering Gaza began complaining of hearing the sounds of tunnels being dug underneath their homes, prompting a renewed call for IDF action. In February, Prime Minister Netanyahu vowed to construct a barrier in order to 'defend ourselves against wild beasts.'"

**COMPUTER CRYSTAL METH** (Friday Church News Notes, September 23, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Computer Crystal Meth: How Screens Are Killing Kids' Minds and Souls," *The New American*, Sept. 13, 2016: "It's a common and sad story of addiction. Thoroughly hooked,



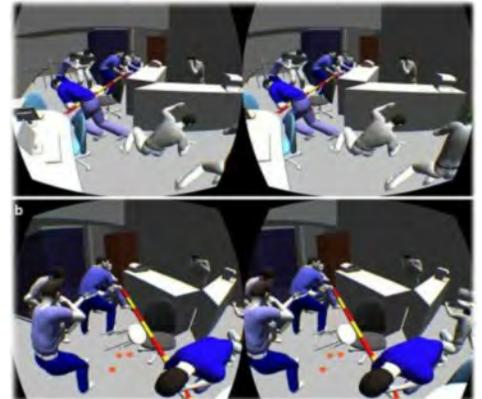
John began to ignore and disengage from other aspects of his life. His behavior deteriorated, and his personal relationships suffered. But John wasn't in the grip of drugs or alcohol, and he wasn't a middle-aged man. He was six years old--and his 'bottle' was an iPad. Although the names have been changed, John's is a true story. His mother, Susan, bought him an iPad in first grade at the recommendation of a technology teacher. He eventually found the popular game *Minecraft*, which the educator claimed was just 'electronic Lego.' ... John was hooked. As he became ever more addicted, he began losing interest in reading and baseball, the latter which he'd loved; his behavior deteriorated, and he refused to do his chores. And some mornings he'd even remark that he saw the *Minecraft* cube shapes in his dreams. But life was moving toward nightmare. John would throw tantrums when Susan tried taking the game away and, reflecting permissive modern parenting, she rationalized away her concerns and deferred to his wishes. Then, however, came the fateful evening that would shatter her

illusions. As licensed psychotherapist Dr. Nicholas Kardaras, who treated Susan and John, wrote August 27 in the *New York Post*: 'Susan walked into his room to check on him. He was supposed to be sleeping. She found him sitting up in his bed staring wide-eyed, his bloodshot eyes looking into the distance as his glowing iPad lay next to him. He seemed to be in a trance. Beside herself with panic, Susan had to shake the boy repeatedly to snap him out of it. Distraught, she could not understand how her once-healthy and happy little boy had become so addicted to the game that he wound up in a catatonic stupor.' Dr. Kardaras points out that it's no coincidence that tech designers and engineers make the most tech-cautious parents. As he writes, 'Silicon Valley tech executives and engineers enroll their kids in no-tech Waldorf Schools.' ... This could remind one of cartel kingpins who push drugs to others while keeping their own homes pure. Yet computers do have legitimate uses."

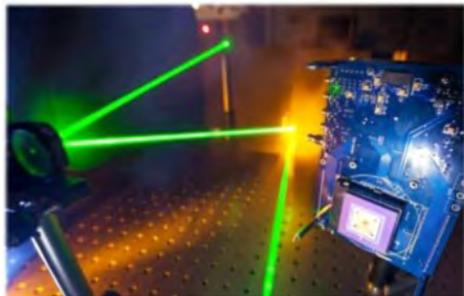
**KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE** (Friday Church News Notes, September 23, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - About 2,500 years ago, during the Persian Empire, an angel told the prophet Daniel, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). We are seeing a dramatic fulfillment of this in our day. Recent inventions include the following: **Researchers are making progress toward using drones for building projects.** At the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, drones



are being trained to weave structures out of cable. "The drones are positioned and directed autonomously from the ground by a central computer fitted with a camera that watches them as they fly. For example, to loop cables around each other, the computer directs two drones to fly through certain points at an exact time. In this way, the fleet can tie complicated knots and form large, regularly repeating patterns strung between fixed structures" ("Spider-drones weave high-rise structures out of cables," *New Scientist*, Nov. 8, 2013). The MIT Media Lab in Massachusetts is using robots with robotic clamps to build towers of magnetic blocks. **A virtual reality headset will allow judges and juries to analyze a crime scene in 3D.** This is possible with new technology that allows crime scene investigators to capture 3D information. The technology includes laser mapping of the scene and MRI and CT scanners to get a detailed picture of injuries ("Forensic



holodeck to transport jury to the crime scene,” *New Scientist*, Jan. 9, 2015). The developers of the new technology are using gaming software, which has become sophisticated enough to create virtual worlds, and a gaming headset, *Oculus Rift*. It might be possible to view a murder scene from the point of view



of the murderer, the victim, or a third person. **Researchers are developing technology to create a 3D image of a room by beaming a laser through a keyhole.** Scientists at the Harbin

Institute of Technology in China have successfully identified the shape and position of cardboard letters spelling HIT through a 2 centimeter hole in a wall (“Map a room by shining a laser through the keyhole,” *New Scientist*, Jan. 5, 2015). For now the technology is in infancy, requiring special conditions. **Scientists at the University of Texas have invented a way to reconstruct conversations by taking photos of the environment in which the words were spoken** (“Six Incredible Spy Technologies,” *Live Science*, Jan. 2, 2015). “The sound spying system takes advantage of the fact that sound waves produce minute, invisible-to-the-naked-eye vibrations that can still be caught on camera. ... The new technique now means that, theoretically, anyone who can snap photos or video of a room could recreate conversations that occurred



there” (“Six Incredible Spy Technologies,” *Live Science*, Jan. 2, 2015).

**MYSTERY MOUNTAINS AREN'T A MYSTERY** (Friday Church News Notes, September 23, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, May 27, 2016: ““And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of

## The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church

A Youth Discipleship Course

by David W. Cloud

Many Christian homes and churches are losing a frightful percentage of their young people to the world.

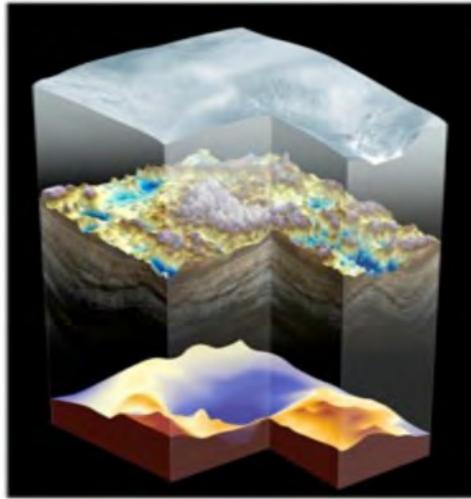
This practical and far-reaching youth discipleship course deals with the parent’s part, the church’s part, and the youth’s part in winning and discipling young people. It covers salvation, child discipline, the Christian home environment that produces disciples, reaching the child’s heart, Bible study techniques, how to protect young people from dangers associated with the Internet and smartphones, how to use apologetics, and many other things.

It deals with how to train young people to be effective Bible students and how to involve them in the church’s ministry. The course deals with eleven biblical principles of spiritual protection that young people must build into their own lives.

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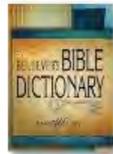
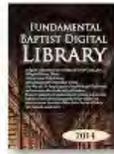
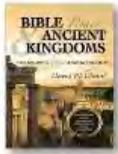
the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.' There are three ways to make mountains. The movement of two crustal plates running into one another will push up mountains. Likewise, volcanic activity will produce mountains. Finally, massive erosion of soft strata from harder strata can also create mountains. In the 1950s, Soviet researchers discovered a mountain range, named the Gamburtsev Mountains, in Antarctica. Since the mountain range lies under almost two-and-a-half miles of ice, they were discovered by seismic survey. There is one problem. There shouldn't be any mountains there, according to



conventional science. That's because Antarctica is a single crustal plate colliding with nothing. Nor is there any evidence of volcanic activity

there. As one scientist put it, finding these mountains is like opening an ancient pyramid and finding a living astronaut in it. However, there is another answer that uniformitarian geologists would never consider. We know that there was massive erosion as the flood waters drained from the earth, as evidenced by the Grand Canyon and the American Badlands. This would also seem to be the most likely explanation for the mystery mountains of Antarctica. The Bible gives us the most accurate general history of the ancient Earth, actually filling in the gaps and contradictions that arise in modern long-age science approaches.”

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## Aim of O Timothy Magazine



- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
- Upholding the New Testament Church (1 Tim. 6:13-14). O Timothy is a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church of London, Ontario.
- Challenging churches to fulfill the Great Commission of world evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13-14)
- Standing for the Received Text of the Holy Scriptures, the Authorized Version in the English Language, and sound translations of the TR in the languages of the world. (Ps. 12:6-7)

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